COR-1254

Copy _2_ of _6_

28 July 1961

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR :   Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT   :   Satellite Reconnaissance Activities

1. Per your request, the following is the present launch schedule for satellite reconnaissance activities for which the Agency is responsible. These are subject to change for technical reasons.

Launch Date	Payload
2 August 1961	C'
22 August 1961	C'''
29 August 1961	C'''
8 September 1961	C'''
28 September 1961	A
October	A
October	*
November	*
December	*
January	M Engineering
May-Aug 1962	Five M Shots

*The payload for these shots will be determined later, and will be selected from the list outlined in the notes below.

NOTES: C' is the present camera being used and has a resolution that can resolve an object of the size of 20-30 feet. This does not provide the detailed technical data as realized from the U-2 photography which resolved objects of the size of 1-3 feet.

C''' is a modified C' with improved lens and film. It is hoped that this configuration will be capable of resolving objects of a size of 8-12 feet.

A - ARGON mission is for mapping purposes and can resolve objects of the size of approximately 400 feet.

M - MURAL is the new program which will provide <u>stereo</u> coverage and resolve objects of the size of approximately 8-12 feet.

2. As indicated to you yesterday, the factor controlling the number of launches is the availability of the Agena, the second stage vehicle. They are in limited supply. As you are aware, this whole program is called, overtly, the Discoverer Series (Thor is first stage and Agena is second stage with the classified CORONA, ARGON or MURAL packages enclosed in the Agena.) Knowledge of the MURAL program is limited to a very few at this time.

3. Through July 1961 we have launched 27 Discoverer shots. Sixteen were CORONA shots (four successfully recovered and productive). Four were ARGON (all unsuccessful), and seven were for R and D engineering purposes.

STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

cc: Copy 2 - DDCI
Copy 3 - DD/P

2